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SENATE BILL 1233 By  
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HOUSE BILL 1121  
By Curtiss

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 62, relative to plumbing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 62, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 6 as a new chapter thereto.

SECTION 2.

(a) There is hereby established a plumbing licensing board.

(b) The board shall have not less than two (2) master plumbers, two (2) journeyman plumbers, two (2) plumbing contractors, and two (2) mechanical engineers, to be appointed by the governor. Members shall serve for four (4) years and may serve one (1) successive term. Of the initial appointments to the board, four (4) shall serve two (2) years and four (4) shall serve four (4) years.

(c) The board shall adopt tests of qualification to be possessed by any person actually engaged in the practice of a master plumber or journeyman plumber and shall require any person engaged in the duties of a master plumber to possess a master

plumber's license. The board shall make such reasonable regulations as it may deem desirable in the performance of its duties and enforcement of the provisions of this act.

### SECTION 3.

(a) No person shall engage in doing the work of a journeyman plumber unless that person possesses a license or renewal thereof issued by the plumbing board. A journeyman plumber may engage in the art of plumbing only when such plumber is under the employment of a master plumber.

(b) Apprentices may engage in the art of plumbing only when they are under the direct, constant, on-the-job supervision of a licensed journeyman plumber.

(c) The board shall issue a license to any person who qualifies under the board's regulations and who desires to engage in doing the work of a journeyman plumber if such person passes a written and manual journeyman plumber's examination given by the board and pays the fees established by the board.

(d) No natural person shall engage in the work of a master plumber unless such person possesses a master plumber's license or renewal thereof issued by the board. The board shall issue a master plumber's license to any person who qualifies under the board's regulations and who desires to engage in doing the work of a master plumber if such person passes a written examination given by the board and pays the fees established by the board for persons applying for a master plumber's license.

(e) No employment entity shall hold itself out as in business of plumbing unless it employs a master plumber. No master plumber shall knowingly allow an employing entity to hold itself out as employing such master plumber at a time when it does not employ such master plumber.

(f) Every employing entity shall maintain and establish a place of business, with facilities for receiving complaints, calls, and notices during normal business hours from any person from which it is performing plumbing.

#### SECTION 4.

(a) An application for journeyman plumber's license shall be completed and sworn by the applicant before a notary public. Each applicant, except those contemplating apprenticeship programs approved by the bureau of apprenticeship and training, must furnish references from a licensed plumbing contractor, verifying that, to their knowledge, the applicant has worked at the manual labor of the trade of plumbing and is qualified to take the examination without assistance, and provide whatever other information is requested by the plumbing board.

(b) Applications for master plumber license shall be completed as sworn by the applicant before a notary public. The applicant must submit proof that such applicant is licensed by a local plumbing board at the time of application as a journeyman plumber or the applicant must submit proof that such applicant is an engineer licensed by the state of Tennessee with experience in plumbing. The applicant must furnish whatever other information relative to the applicant's experience that is requested in the application form or specially requested by the state plumbing board.

SECTION 5. The board shall set all fees for licensing of plumbers. Licenses shall expire every two (2) years. The board shall send out notices for renewal at least sixty (60) days before such licenses expire.

SECTION 6. The board may, when it deems appropriate, seek such civil remedies at law or equity to restrain or enjoin any unauthorized practice or other violation of this act.

SECTION 7. For the purpose of appointing members to the board, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes it shall take effect January 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.